IN THE CLAIMS:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprising up to 10% by weight, based on the swellable hydrogel-forming polymer, of at least one hydrophilic polymer having a dendritic structure.

18. (New) The polymer of claim 17 wherein said swellable hydrogel-forming polymer comprises at least 0.005% by weight of the hydrophilic polymer having a dendritic structure.

19. (New) The polymer of claim 17 wherein the hydrophilic polymer having a dendritic structure comprises a polyester formed from a polyol and 2,2-dimethylolpropionic acid.

20. (New) The polymer of claim 17 wherein the hydrophilic polymer having a dendritic structure comprises a polypropyleneimine, a polyamidoamine, or a polyesteramide.

21. (New) The polymer of claim 17 further comprising a powdery additive, a dusty additive, or a mixture thereof.

22. (New) The polymer of claim 21 wherein said additive is a metal salt, a pyrogenic silica, a polysaccharide, a nonionic surfactant, a wax, diatomaceous earth, or a mixture thereof.

23. (New) The polymer of claim 21 wherein said additive is in a form of hollow microspheres from 1 to 1000 μm in diameter and having a wall thickness of 1% to 10% of said diameter.

24. (New) The polymer of claim 17 comprising less than 50 weight ppm of particles less than 10 μm in diameter.

25. (New) The polymer of claim 17 comprising less than 50 weight ppm of particles less than 10 μm in diameter after exposure to mechanical stress.

26. (New) A process for preparing a swellable hydrogel-forming polymer of claim 1 comprising mixing a dried, water-absorbing hydrogel with at least one hydrophilic polymer having a dendritic structure.

27. (New) The process of claim 26 wherein said hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure comprises a polyester formed from a polyol and 2,2-dimethylolpropionic acid.

28. (New) The process of claim 26 wherein said hydrophilic polymer of dendritic structure comprises a polypropyleneimine, a polyamidoamine, or a polyesteramide.

29. (New) The process of claim 26 wherein said process is performed together with a surface-postcrosslinking operation.

30. (New) The process of claim 29 wherein the surface-postcrosslinking operation is performed using at least one surface postcrosslinker and a solvent comprising a mixture of isopropanol and water.

31. (New) A method of absorbing blood or body fluids comprising contacting the blood or body fluids with a polymer of claim 17.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the body fluid is urine.

33. (New) A hygiene article comprising a polymer of claim 17.